

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 868

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

July 2, 1936

RESULTS OF THE ARCHBOLD EXPEDITIONS. NO. 10

TWO NEW SUBSPECIES OF BIRDS FROM NEW GUINEA

BY ERNST MAYR AND A. L. RAND

The descriptions of these two new subspecies could not be published together with the descriptions of the other new forms discovered during the examination of the Archbold-Rand collection, because the loan of additional material had caused a delay.

***Excalfactoria chinensis papuensis*, new subspecies**

TYPE.—No. 419339, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Mafulu, C. D.; November 16, 1933; R. Archbold, A. Rand.

MALE.—Intermediate between *E. c. australis* and *lepida* in the coloration of the under parts; the chestnut belly patch is not as extensive as in *australis*, but not as reduced or absent as in *lepida*; the blue-gray parts are bluish and the brownish parts a saturated deep chestnut; the coloration of the upper parts is more characteristic owing to the prevalence of the bluish tone; the sides of the head, a broad superciliary and the entire anterior part of the crown are bluish; no sign of a pale stripe along the center of the crown; the rest of upper parts dark, lacking the warm brown tones of *lepida* or the varied pattern of *australis*; light-colored shaft-streaks much reduced; blackish spots and bars very pronounced; scapulars and wing-coverts partly bluish, much more so than in the other two forms; blackish bars on upper wing-coverts, on the sides of the breast and on the flanks much reduced.

FEMALE.—Similar to that of *lepida*, but not so richly colored underneath with a more grayish, less ochraceous, tone; barring on flanks and on middle of belly reduced; tawny band encircling crown, wider.

<i>australis</i> 6 ♂ ad.	wing: 68–76 (71.7) mm.
<i>papuensis</i> 6 ♂ ad.	wing: 66–70 (67.7) mm.
<i>lepida</i> 12 ♂ ad.	wing: 64–72 (67.9) mm.

RANGE.—Grasslands of south and east New Guinea.

MATERIAL EXAMINED.—A large series of *australis* and of *lepida* and the following specimens of *papuensis*: Dogwa, Oriomo River, 2 ♂, 4 ♀; Mafulu, Central District, 2 ♂, 2 ♀; Bialowat, upper Watut River, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Kumusi River, 1 ♂.

We are much obliged to Mr. James Greenway, Jr., and the authorities of the Museum of Comp. Zoölogy for the loan of two specimens from the Stevens collection.

***Microdynamis parva grisescens*, new subspecies**

TYPE.—No. 267118, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Madang, Astrolabe Bay; August 23, 1928; R. H. Beck.

MALE.—Similar to that of *Microdynamis p. parva*, but more grayish; some specimens have the under parts (except for the ochraceous throat) a pure gray, and no indication of rufous on the nape or rump; outer webs of upper wing-coverts and wing-feathers only narrowly margined with rufous; upper parts dark brownish gray with a bronzy gloss; underwing averaging paler rufous; no metallic blue-black spots on the throat.

FEMALE.—Also much more grayish, less rufous on upper and under parts.

	AD. MALES		AD. FEMALES	
	WING	TAIL	WING	TAIL
North New Guinea	106-110	92-103	103-107	87-96
South coast of S.E. New Guinea	103-109	87-100	97-102	83-85
West New Guinea	104,110	92,103

MATERIAL (adult birds only).—*Microdynamis p. griseus*: Madang 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Keku 2 ♀; Astrolabe Bay 1 ♂ subad.; Sepik River, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Ifar, 1 ♂; Sattelberg, 1 ♀; Upper Watut River, 1 ♂; Kumusi River, 1 ♀.—*Microdynamis p. parva*: Hydrographer Mountains, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Milne Bay, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; Owen Stanley Range, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Kanosia, 1 ♂; Mafulu, 1 ♂; Ori-Ori, 1 ♂; Kone, 1 ♂; Weyland Mts., 1 ♂; Ron Island, 1 ♂.

RANGE.—Northern New Guinea, at least between Humboldt Bay (Ifar) and Huon Gulf (Sattelberg).

REMARKS.—This is an extremely variable species and only the large series assembled by us has made it possible to come to a conclusion about the geographical variation. There is some overlap between the series of southeast and of north New Guinea, but very rufous birds are never found in north New Guinea, and gray ones never in the southeast. In the entire series from north New Guinea there is only one specimen (a subadult male, from Astrolabe Bay) that is distinctly rufous, but even that specimen does not reach the rufous extreme shown by some southeast New Guinea specimens.

Birds from the north coast of southeast New Guinea appear to be intermediate. Specimens from the Hydrographer Mountains are nearer to the rufous form, while a bird from the Kumusi River and one from the upper Watut River appear to be closer to *griseus*.

The name *Microdynamis parva* was given by Salvadori to a specimen, supposedly from Ternate, but obviously from northwest New Guinea. The description (see Ornit. Pap. Mol. I, p. 371) refers to a gray-brown bird and fits much better the rufous-brown bird of southeast New Guinea than the gray bird of north New Guinea. Two specimens from western

New Guinea (Ron Isl. and Weyland Mts.) bear out the conclusion that the name *parva* refers to the rufous-brown population.

We are much obliged to the Zool. Mus. Berlin and the Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Cambridge, for the loan of material.

